

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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Live Streaming of Masses <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiTLQJ1tek5IHBTdkMR6ptw>

## Third Sunday of Easter 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### Weekend Masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet 7:30pm Leitrim  
Sun 9:00am Gargory 11:00am Dromara

### Weekday Masses

Mon 9am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet  
Tues 9am Dromara

There will be no evening mass on Wed & Fri due to Confirmations

### Confirmation will be celebrated this week

Tues 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm Leitrim  
Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> 6pm Dechomet  
Fri 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm Finnis  
All are welcome to attend



*We pray for our recently deceased  
Dympna Smyth (nee McAnulty), Ballykínlar*

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Dechomet

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Patrick Hugh & Elizabeth Doyle  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> John Sweeney

#### Leitrim

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Brendan Boyd  
Patsy McAnulty  
Anna McAnulty  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jim Joe O'Hare  
Margaret & Teresa Murphy

#### Dromara

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Mary Ann & Seamus Lundy

### Cemetery Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Gargory after 9am mass  
Dromara 12 noon  
Leitrim 3pm  
Dechomet 5pm

### SVDP contact numbers

Dromara 07738 838191  
Drumgooland 07825 419067

### Diocesan Director of Safeguarding

Stephen Sherry 07301 246329  
[safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org)

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### Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £472 £1,783

*Thank you for your continued contributions*

**Trócaire** Thank you for your generosity, £1,795 has been received so far. Please return your boxes or envelopes over the next few weeks, please do not leave boxes in the church when no one else is present. Thank you to those who changed the loose coins into notes, but all donations are accepted.

**Gift Aid card** Thanks to all who have returned the cards. They are essential to our records. If you are not a tax payer, please return the card blank or mark with an 'X' or 'N/A'

### Dromara Parish Council Meeting Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April 8pm

**Dromore Diocesan Historical Society**  
Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm Newry Parish Centre  
The Society's next event of its 2026 programme is a talk by **Ciaran MacMurcuidh** entitled  
*"Exploring Placenames within the Diocese of Dromore"*  
Adm £1. All welcome

**Dromore Diocese Youth Com**  
Young Adults (18 to 35 years) gathering  
**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> April 6:30pm to 9:15pm**  
Dromantine Centre, Newry.  
Email [youthdirector@dromorediocese.org](mailto:youthdirector@dromorediocese.org)

**Peter Morgan's Cottage**  
**Music Night Fri 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm**  
Come along, enjoy Music, Craic.  
A light supper is provided

**Pilgrimage to Fatima**  
**14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> August 2026**  
*Flying Direct from Belfast International Airport*  
*Convenient flight times - £850pps*  
7 nights F/B Avenida Hotel  
Spiritual Director: Fr Andrew McMahan  
Further information contact  
Joe Catney: 077 7642 5631

*We welcome into Drumgooland Parish*  
**Layla Roise Stuart**



## OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH LUKE 24:13-35

The journey of two disciples to Emmaus is one of the treasures of Luke's Gospel. It's a perfect short story of a walk along the road from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus.

It would probably have taken about two hours to cover the seven-mile trip. It seems that the pair cannot wait to get away from Jerusalem and, as soon as the Sabbath ends, they hit the road. The previous days had brought them on a roller coaster of emotions: from the high of the Passover to the shocking arrest and execution of Jesus.

As they walk along, a stranger joins them. Noticing their downcast faces, he asks them what's wrong. And they tell him everything. Jesus of Nazareth whom they regarded as a prophet of God had let them down. He had been executed. Stranger still, a rumour was circulating that his grave had been found empty and that he had been raised from the dead.

The stranger's reaction must have surprised them. He begins by telling them that they had failed to understand what was happening. They thought the messiah would be a military leader but scripture clearly showed that the messiah would suffer 'and so enter into his glory.' As they continue their journey, the stranger gives them a crash course on the bible.

Hearing his words, something in the pair begins to change. They can now see what Jesus' passion was all about. Everything is falling into place. They have more to learn but they have reached their destination, and so they persuade the stranger to join them for a meal. Then the stranger does something they had seen Jesus do in the past: he takes the bread, prays over it and gives it to them. The penny drops. Their companion on the road is Jesus himself but he disappears as mysteriously as he had joined them. Immediately, they rush back to Jerusalem. There they find the community they had left that morning, bewildered and lost, now full of confidence that Jesus has indeed risen. They tell their story of how they had met him on the road.

The walk to Emmaus might have taken two hours. But in another sense, the journey to Emmaus probably took many years in that it took the bewildered disciples who had witnessed Jesus' death a long time to put it all together, to make sense both of the story of his stay among them and of how all that happened was part of God's plan as revealed in the Old Testament. Many years too to discover how in the broken bread of the Eucharist, Jesus continued to be present for and with them. ■

### SAY

Say this prayer based on today's Gospel: "Stay with us, Lord Jesus, as evening falls. Be our companion on our way. In your mercy inflame our hearts and raise our hopes, so that, in union with all our brothers and sisters, we may recognise you in the scriptures and in the breaking of bread."

(Evening Prayer, Monday Week 4)

### PRAY

Pray for all those crushed by hopelessness or despair, that they may know that God is with them.

### LEARN

The Emmaus story shows that we meet the risen Christ in many different ways – in the scriptures, in the Eucharist, in the offer of hospitality to the stranger. All we need are eyes to see.

### DO

Think about your faith journey. In what ways has your faith changed over the years?

### REFLECT

Faith is a journey. Czech theologian Fr Tomas Halik says Jesus did not come to offer us a doctrine – a set of beliefs – but rather a life-long journey towards the total transformation of every aspect of our lives, including all our relationships – to ourselves, to others, to society, to nature and to God. It's no surprise, he says, that the early Christians were known as the Community of the Way.

The nature of a journey is that it's never static. A mature faith requires constant growth. Hopefully, our faith today is more mature than when we were young. Halik says that even critical questions, doubts and crises of faith can be a valuable stimulus on this faith journey. We know we don't have it all figured out, that we'll never have it all figured out. To think we have all the answers is to become fundamentalist, intolerant, triumphalist, closed off from dialogue and encounter, closed off from the God of surprises. Cardinal Newman said that to live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often. To keep maturing in the faith is a life-long journey.

A word Pope Francis uses in his letter on family life, *Amoris laetitia* (The Joy of Love), is 'gradualism.' We are a work in progress, he says. Families are a work in progress. No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; "families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love... All of us are called to keep striving towards something greater than ourselves and our families, and every family must feel this constant impulse."

We must always aim at being better disciples of Jesus. To grow all the time – in holiness, patience, compassion, love. The pilgrim journey towards perfection is something we won't realise this side of the grave, but which we must keep striving towards.

There is an echo of this in the preamble to the United States Constitution when it talks about forming a 'more perfect union.' It's an acknowledgement that there is still work to do to form a perfect union, a distance to go before it occurs, that it will never fully happen. Gradualism describes our day by day journey towards perfection, towards transformation, towards God. Just as the two disciples grew in knowledge of God on their journey to Emmaus, we seek to grow ever closer to God on our journey through life. ■